

Albuquerque Weekly Citizen.

VOLUME 1.

ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1891.

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NUMBER 1.

NEW MEXICO IN GENERAL.

The population of New Mexico in 1880 was 110,000 and by the census of 1880 it is 150,000, an increase in ten years of about 30 per cent. Although this increase is not as great as it has been in many of the new states, it is considerably more than the average of the country at large. The increase has been almost entirely from immigration, and the difference of population of '80 and that of '81 represents an increase of the American element in the territory in ten years.

The principal enterprises inaugurated in the territory during the period under consideration have been railroads, irrigating canals, smelters, stamp mills and factories of various kinds. Prior to 1880 the people of the territory were engaged almost exclusively in agricultural pursuits—cultivating the soil and wool growing. Very few cattle were raised here prior to 1860, and those were inferior grade; not much attention was given to fruit growing, and what little fruit was raised was of inferior character, except the grapes. There are of the variety known as the "mission grapes," which, though not of the best quality for wine making, are reckoned the finest table grape grown, and is now largely shipped to other parts of the country, and finds everywhere a good sale.

Large numbers of cattle are raised in the territory and many of the herds show decided improvement in character. The number of beef animals shipped to market last spring from New Mexico were estimated at 150,000, and will probably be an equal number during the coming spring. The annual wool clip of the territory is estimated at 250,000,000 pounds, the most of which is now shipped from Albuquerque to manufacturing points in the east and a very large proportion of which comes back in the form of blankets.

Mining, at which there was very little done in the ten years ago, has now become one of the most important industries, and probably gives employment to many men as are employed in any other time of business.

Fruit growing has also received much attention. Many thousands of trees of the most improved varieties of fruit have been put out during the last few years and the number is increasing every year. Much new land and the results of cultivation for this purpose and the results thus far have been extremely satisfactory. The quality of fruit, where good varieties are planted, is very superior.

The almost perpetual sunshine of this climate causes trees of the same variety to yield fruit much superior in flavor to those grown anywhere else.

The cultivation of alfalfa has also received much attention. This plant was comparatively unknown here ten years ago, but fields of it may now be found in every part of the territory, and the native grown alfalfa is rapidly supplanting the prairie grass formerly shipped from Texas. It is cut four times a year, and averages one and a half tons to the cutting.

At least fifty new towns have been started within the last ten years, some of which have attained considerable prominence, among these are Albuquerque, Gallup, Raton, Springer, Eddy, Roswell, Carrizos, Magdalena, Kingston, Lake Valley, Deming and others. Old Albuquerque has been known as a prominent point for more than two centuries, but the new town of that name started in 1880, is at present the largest town in the territory, and the general trade center. The buildings are all modern in the style of architecture, there are street railways, telephones, electric light, water works, daily newspapers, good churches, schools, hotels, and everything that pertains to a progressive American town.

The style of architecture in all the new towns is modern and first class; many of the old towns also showed decided improvement in this regard. In Santa Fe, Las Vegas and others, the original adobe houses have largely given place to good buildings of brick and stone of the best modern materials.

Railroad building had just commenced in 1880, there being at that time very few miles of road in the territory, now the main line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad runs through the territory from northeast to southwest, thence to Guaymas in Lower California, having branches to Blooming, Vega, Hot Springs, Santa Fe, Magdalena, Carrizos, El Paso, Lake Valley and Silver City. The Atlantic and Pacific railroad runs from Albuquerque to the western border of the territory and thence to San Francisco. A road projected to Albuquerque from the town of Pecos, Texas on the Southern Pacific railroad is now built up the Pecos valley as far as Eddy. The Denver & Rio Grande railroad also runs into the territory as far as Española, eighty miles from Albuquerque, with a branch to Santa Fe. The Denver, Ft. Worth & Gulf railroad also crosses the northeast corner of the territory. In all about one thousand miles of railway are now in operation. The present condition of the territory, material, moral and intellectual, is much improved over that of ten years ago. There are more and better schools and churches, more newspapers and other intellectual products; science and culture under favorable conditions, and under cultivated and modern machinery and modern methods have been largely introduced.

The mineral material progress in the past ten years has been in mining and manufacturing. Although it was known at that time that the mountains of the territory abounded in mineral wealth, comparatively little had been done in the way of development. Now, mining is recognized as the principal industry of the territory, and a large amount of capital is employed in the various mining enterprises, including smelters, stamp mills and other mining machinery. More men are employed in this than in any other line, excepting perhaps agriculture, and the annual output in precious metals is now next to that of Colorado. Coal mining, which in 1880 had not been undertaken at all, is now carried on extensively at quite a number of points, notably Blooming, Raton, Gallup, Carrizos and Carrizos, and the daily output is reckoned at one thousand tons.

The outlook for the future of the territory is encouraging. Its great natural advantages are becoming known to the general public, and it is beginning to attract more attention than at any time in the past.

The only great disadvantage under which New Mexico at present is the unsettled condition of land titles, but this matter has already been brought to the attention of congress and was prominently mentioned by the president of the United States in his last message. There is reason to hope therefore, that congress will soon take decisive action in the matter, and provide some measure similar to that adopted for the remedy of a like evil in California. As soon as this is done the main obstacle in the way of New Mexico's material prosperity will be removed and her well known natural resources can not fail to attract the attention of men of enterprise and capital from all parts of the country.

WEALTH IN THE SOIL.

We have shown elsewhere that there is, and, in the nature of things, must always be a good market for all the products of the Rio Grande valley, and the next question of interest to the man who is looking for a location is what will the land produce? Irrigated land, in this valley, will yield, as a general rule, two crops a year, and both fall and spring. Corn, onions and beans are exceptions to the rule, as these articles require the ground during the whole growing season—though by planting good varieties, a very fair crop of corn can be raised on the same land that has raised a crop of wheat. The wheat is harvested in June, and any of the short-season varieties of corn will have time, if not in excess, for the wheat to mature before that date and the coming of frost, which is generally not earlier than the middle of October. As a rule, however, it is generally deemed

better to plant the large southern corn, and let it have the ground during the whole season. And the same is true of onions. The variety generally raised is the one commonly known as the Mexican onion, which has been cultivated by the natives of the country for centuries. It attains a very large size, is a good keeper, and of a peculiarly mild flavor. It yields, with ordinary cultivation about ten tons to the acre, and sells to the dealers, by the wagon load, at from twenty-five to thirty dollars a ton. It is raised from the seed, is usually planted early in the spring, but will yield a heavier crop if put in during the fall, early enough to get a good stand before winter.

Beds of the ordinary table varieties, will yield about the same as corn, and sell at about the same price. If a man is located near the town, so that he can come with his wagon and team, and communicate direct, he can count with certainty upon realizing two cents a pound all around for his onions, beans, peas, turnips, radishes, carrots and cabbages. Sugar beets and the potato varieties yield enormously, though not of the best quality for wine making, but they are used exclusively, for feeding stock and sell at comparative low prices five to seven dollars a ton. Beans yield two crops in the season, and about a ton to the acre at each crop. They are worth, on the farm, about three cents a pound.

Tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, peas, radishes, melons, etc., all grow luxuriantly, and yield abundantly. They all find a ready sale in the towns and mining camps, and there is a good market already existing for at least four times as much of all these various articles as is produced at present. Asparagus seems to be perfectly at home in the Rio Grande valley and grows almost spontaneously. It is vigorous and healthy, attains enormous dimensions, is succulent and tender, requires very little care and always brings a high price. One acre of asparagus, in this valley, will bring a man more than four times than a hundred acres of corn, or any other crop, and a good crop of asparagus is the best thing in the market to him who is anxious to make a living.

Asparagus is a good crop, and at thirty cents a bushel—which is considerably above the average price in the market—would bring twice the hundred dollars, and the cost of producing the corn will be at least twenty per cent more than it costs to produce the asparagus. The only advantage in favor of the corn is that a man who settles upon a piece of land can raise a crop of corn the second year, while no asparagus bed will not do to till in the third spring. The original cost of making an asparagus bed of one acre, and of putting a hundred acres of prairie land in condition for corn, would be about the same.

IRRIGATION.

In his lecture on irrigation, Rev. Mr. Bush says that it can be shown beyond all controversy that the resources of New Mexico are equal to those of any state in the union. By its physical conformation, he says that this arid region is destined to be the granary of the country. Its resources it is naturally destined to become the industrial and financial backbone of the country. Wherever there is a sufficient supply of natural resources, any one of which would insure wealth and power, we have unlimited quantities of precious and base metals, gold and silver, iron, copper and lead. We have inexhaustible supplies of coal, both bituminous and anthracite. We have also millions of acres of land, 100 per cent more productive than the lands of Kansas and Missouri. We can raise nearly every crop that grows on the earth from the equator to the pole. Thanks to diversity of climate, as recorded by varying altitudes, we can produce corn, wheat, buckwheat, potatoes, peaches, apples, apricots, oranges, lemons, dates, figs and the finest grain crops in the western states and every conceivable fruit and vegetable from a peach to a watermelon, from a gooseberry to the finest grade of raisins. We have not only every resource of sun-worn wealth, but we have the most healthful and delightful climate in the world. The advantages that irrigation will produce will make this region the most beautiful to the eye of any in the land. Every grade of soil, soil, sand and climate that make a country fascinating to the human heart is to be found right here. The Mormon catechism teaches that the Garden of Eden was located in Davis county, Missouri and an enthusiastic bishop of south Missouri has written a book to prove that the Garden of Eden was in that state. It is not of much importance when the Garden of Eden was, but we are all interested to know where it is going to be.

For the benefit of prospective settlers we desire to let it be known that we are now living in that spot.

It is now nearly four hundred years since that most noble night when a certain tempestuous navigator passed the waters in anxious waiting on the deck of his vessel. The day before sea weeds had crossed the track of the ship, birds of brilliant plumage had circled about the masts, bright prophecies of the nearing land. When at last the shadows of night were lifted, the world wide girdle of the eye of Columbus. Evergreen boughs knelt on the shores of this district, and kissed its virgin soil. What he had really discovered has been slowly dawning upon the consciousness of man ever since. This country is still a hundred times bigger than most people suppose. Colorado and New Mexico could support the entire population of the United States, and our hard coal is as good as the best Pennsylvania hard coal, and we have plenty of it. Over and above all the above named cities, we have the great mineral and modern machinery and modern methods have been largely introduced.

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Some eastern people imagine that if they should come for rest in New Mexico they would get entire beyond the pale of civilization and Christianity. It will probably be a surprise to such persons to learn that in the town of Albuquerque, only a little over ten years old, there are already ten churches; Congregational, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Baptist, two Catholic and four Methodist churches, and that all of these, except the Baptists, have good houses of worship, many of which are commodious and elegant. The Congregational, Methodist and Catholic all maintain excellent schools, whose curriculums include not only everything taught in the common schools, but many of the higher branches. So our eastern neighbors will perceive that we are not entirely heathens.

AGRICULTURE IN NEW MEXICO.

The agricultural possibilities of New Mexico are not properly appreciated. There is a general impression abroad that while the territory can produce minerals and wool in considerable abundance, and is a good breeding place for cattle, it is so deficient in agricultural advantages that it must always be necessary for us to import all the food for ourselves and our animals from some more favored section of the country and send our cattle abroad to be fattened.

This is true in a measure at the present time, but it is not due to want of power in the soil and climate of the country, but to the fact that we have failed to utilize our resources. Any man in middle life who can remember the time when it was generally believed that California and Colorado would never be able to produce anything but silver and gold, and that all the men engaged in mining in those states would have to be fed by other portions of the country, but California today exports more wheat than any other state in the union, while her fruits, fresh and canned, are known around the world, and Colorado is not much behind her either south or north of the Rockies.

There is nothing in the soil or climate of New Mexico that would prevent the raising of wheat, which is unsurpassed, nor supply the whole southwest. As there is nothing in natural conditions to prevent the existence of these two states from being repeated in New Mexico to the extent, at least, of feeding her own people. The elements of climate and soil are essentially the same, the difference, where any exists, being in favor of New Mexico. The climate is milder than that of Colorado, and as compared with that of California is superior in all essential respects for the growing of every product except the semi-tropical fruits while the power of the soil is practically unlimited. The work of cultivation in New Mexico has to be done by irrigation, it is true, but the same is also true of the work in both of the states named, and the man who has tried farming in an irrigation country, will secure the greatest productivity of California and Colorado.

If the regular articles of commerce were produced, there would be a demand for them in the market, and the man who has once secured a market for his produce, can easily find a customer for his surplus. The wheat, corn, beans, turnips, radishes, carrots, cabbages, onions, squashes, pumpkins, turnips and sweet potatoes, the apples, plums, peaches and grapes there shown as samples of the products of New Mexico, might easily compete with the products of any other state in the union. The only difficulty in the way of irrigation, is that the cost of irrigating the land is high, and the cost of producing the irrigation equipment is high, but the cost of irrigation is not necessarily greater than the cost of growing the same articles without irrigation.

To the east of the two sections named, southern New Mexico and northern Arizona, which are the most important sections, are now subjected to great expense in building which might be avoided in providing for the necessities of the country. The cost of irrigation equipment is high, but the cost of growing the same articles without irrigation is not necessarily greater than the cost of growing the same articles with irrigation.

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A YEAR'S PROGRESS.

The growth of Albuquerque continues at the same encouraging rate that has characterized it ever since the town was founded, and the figures of the past year's progress more than confirms all that we have claimed. A careful canvass of the town, which included only those improvements completed or in course of construction on the 1st of December, shows that the aggregate for the year up to that time was over three hundred thousand dollars. There was no great work about the man, the exact figures had been obtained in every case from the owners or contractors, and the location of the building and name of the owner always stated. The annual report referred to made full account to the growing and prosperous condition of Albuquerque has been characterized by some of our neighbors as "boasting," and our claim that a greater amount of money is being invested here in substantial improvements than at any other point in the southwest, is much, almost, as true as any two other places have been called an exaggeration. But the figures given below of what has actually been done during the year, fully substantiate all that we have claimed.

RAILWAY & BRIDGES.

This firm have built for Mr. Frank Sturges a two story brick residence on Second street north, at a cost of \$2,000. This does not include the cost of grading and otherwise improving the lot, which has probably cost \$1,000 more. The house is a very handsome structure, architecturally finished, and will be a credit to the city.

MR. ROBERT DENNIS.

Has built his own residence and stable on North Second street, costing in round figures \$4,000.

W. D. JOHNSON.

Has built a house for Mr. George Knapp, an elegant residence, located on Fourth and Arno streets, for \$1,500.

MR. WHEELER.

Mr. Wheeler has built this season a frame residence near the Atlantic & Pacific station, for F. T. Trap, costing \$600.

A. T. TRAP.

A residence for Mr. Isherwood, between North Second and Fifth streets, \$600.

DWIGHT WHEELER.

Mr. Wheeler has built this season a frame residence near the Atlantic & Pacific station, for C. H. Shupe, costing \$1,000.

C. H. SHUPE.

A residence for Mr. John Johnson, between North Second and Third streets, \$600.

JOHN JOHNSON.

Has built a house for Mr. E. D. Fink, a hand-brick residence on South Third street, at a cost of \$2,000.

A. D. FINK.

Has built a house for Mr. C. C. Carver on South Second street, costing \$600.

C. C. CARVER.

Has built a house for Mr. J. E. Tracy, a hand-brick residence on Arno street, between Second and Third streets, \$600.

J. E. TRACY.

A hand-brick residence for Mr. Mat Ridley, costing \$2,000. A brick residence on South Broadway, costing \$1,500. Mr. Johnson has also built additions to his residence as follows: A fine addition for J. E. Tracy, on Walter street, \$100; an addition to Mrs. Foster's residence, frame, \$400. He has also built a brick addition to his own residence on South Broadway costing \$500.

N. W. WHITE.

Mr. White has built for Mrs. McInire, mother of Chas. Conlin, a hand-brick residence on South Third street, \$600, a total of \$4,000. He also built a brick residence for Mr. Wm. Metcalf on North Third street, costing \$2,000.